

Wildflower Plant Characteristics for Pollinator Beneficial Plants in the Northeastern United States

scientific name	Common name	USDA hardiness zones	pollinator ranking	Flower Time	bloom color	plant ht (ft)	Wetland Indicator	sunlight needs	ph	Vegetative spread	seeds/ lb	Cost (lb) (\$)	other
<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>	purple giant hyssop	4-6	very high	june-sep**	purple	2-4	FACW	full	6.5- 7.0	n/a	1,488,000	80	attractive to bees and butterflies,birds, RARE
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	indian hemp	4-8	medium to low	june-aug**	white	2-4	FACU	full	4.5-7	some	500,000	280	extensive root system, fairly aggressive
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	common milkweed	3-9	high	june-sept**	pink purple	1-4	FACU	full to partial	5.6- 7.5	high	64,000	64	attracts monarchs; cuttings will bloom in first year, seeds may not
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed	3-7	high	july-aug	pink	2-4	OBL	full to partial	5-8	slow	75,000	240	good for wetlands; great for monarch; high deer resistant
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterfly milkweed	4-9	high	july-sept	orange	1-2	FACW	full to partial	4.8- 6.8	none	70,000	160	attractive to monarchs
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	blue false indigo	3-8	medium	june-aug**	purple/ blue	3-5	FACU	full	5.8- 7.2	none	63,140	120	native legume, great for mixes, bushy habit, good ground cover
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	wild indigo	3-9	medium	june-aug	yellow	1-3	FAC-	full	5.8-7	none	300,000	400	very low maintenance
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white turtlehead	3-8	high	summer	White	2-4	FACW	full-shade	5.1- 6.5	slow	1,560,000	600	good for shady woods
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	partridge pea	3-8	high	june-sept	yellow	2-5	FACU	full to partial	5.5- 7.5	none	65,000	14	good for wildlife and erosion control; legume
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	blue chicory	4-8	very low	july-oct	purple	1-4	FACU	full to partial	6.0- 7.5	none	426,400	16	roadsides, open fields
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	lanced-leaved coreopsis	3-8	low	june-aug	yellow	2-4	FACU	full	6.0- 7.0	none	210,000	14	can tolerate regular mowing
<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	plains coreopsis	4-6	low	june-sept	yellow	2-4	FAC-	full	5.2- 7.8	none	3,222,222	12	flowers in short period of time, may become invasive
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	showy tick trefoil	3-6	medium-low	july-sep	pink/ purple	2-5	FAC	full to partial	5.6- 6.5	n/a	88,000	120	legume, can become invasive
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	flat top white aster	3-8	medium-low	aug-sept	white	2-4	FACW	full	5.6- 7.5	n/a	859,000	160	host to pearl crescent, and silvery checkerspot
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	3-8	high	july-oct	purple	2-4	FAC	full to partial	6.5- 7.2	mod	115,000	32	easy to grow
<i>Eupatoriadelphus maculatus</i>	spotted joe pye weed	5-9	high	july-aug	pink- purple	2-5	FACW	full to partial	5.5-7	slow	2,880,000	180	attracts butterflies
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	boneset	4-7	high	july-sept	white	2-5	FACW+	full to partial	6.1- 7.8	n/a	1,520,000	160	from seed, flowers in 2nd to 3rd year. may attract pests

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<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	bigleaf aster	3-8	medium-low	aug-oct**	purple	2-4	FACU	full	4.9- 6.9	mod	800,000	220	provides wildlife habitat, can tolerate some shade
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	grass-leaved goldenrod	2-8	low	aug-sep	yellow	3-5	FAC	full	n/a	fast	5,600,000	120	food and cover for wildlife
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	common sneezeweed	3-8	high	july-sept	yellow	2-5	FACW+	full	4.0- 7.5	none	2,000,000	80	attracts butterflies, flowers late
<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	giant sunflower	5-11	medium	late summer	yellow	6-9	FAC	full	6.1- 7.8	none	160000	50	large plant, small flowers
<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	ashy sunflower	4-10	medium	aug-sept	yellow	2-6	UPL	full	5.7- 8.0	high	125,000	180	covered with hairs
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	ox eye (false) sunflower	3-9	low	july-sept	yellow	2-5	FAC	full to partial	6.1- 7.8	n/a	103,900	36	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St Johnswort	4-8	low	july-oct**	yellow	1-3	FAC	partial	5.1- 7.5	slow	1,800,000	80	
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	round-headed lespedeza	4-6	very low	july-sept	white	2-4	FACU-	full	5.7- 8.2	none	159,000	180	provides food for birds and small wildlife
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	tall (rough) blazing star	3-8	high	july-sept	purple	2-4	FACU	full	6.6- 7.5	slow	256,000	400	scarify seed helps, shortest and last to bloom of liatris
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	marsh blazing star	3-9	high	june-july	purple	2-4	FAC+	full to partial	5.6- 7.5	slow	100,000	128	good for rain gardens
<i>Linum perenne</i>	perennial blue flax	4-9	high	june-sept	blue	2-3	FAC	full to partial	6.1- 7.8	slow	320,000	20	not native and short lived
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	4-8	high	june-sept	red	1-4	FACW+	full to partial	5.8- 7.8	none	7,320,000	560	provides nectar for bees and hummingbirds, butterflies
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	great blue lobelia	3-8	very high	july-sept	purple	2-5	FACW+	full to partial	6.0- 7.5	n/a	6,400,000	280	
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	wild lupine	3-9	high	june-aug**	blue	1-2	FACU	full to partial	4.6- 7.2	none	18,800	96	provides food and habitat for butterflies, not for restoration
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Alleghany monkey flower	3-9	medium-low	june-aug	light purple	1-3	OBL	full to partial	5.6- 7.5	n/a	36,800,000	120	provides cover for wildlife
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamot	3-7	very high	june-aug	purple/ dark pink	2-5	UPL	full to partial	6-8	mod	1,200,000	196	provides nectar for bees and hummingbirds, butterflies
<i>Monarda media</i>	purple bergamot	4-9	very high	june-july	purple	2-4	FACW	full to partial	6.0- 7.8	mod	1,120,000	196	attracts bees and butterflies
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	spotted beebalm	5-10	high	june-sept	pink/ white	1-3	UPL	full	6.8- 7.2	mod	1,440,000	180	sensitive to overwatering

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<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	evening primrose	4-8	medium	june-aug	yellow	4-5	FACU	full	6.1-7.8	none	1,376,000	32	may become weedy or invasive
<i>Oligoneuron riddellii</i>	Riddell's Goldenrod	3-7	high	fall	yellow	2-4	OBL	full	7.0-8.0	some	1,424,000	200	listed as species at risk, Not Native to NY
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	tall white beard tongue	4-8	high	june-july	white	2-5	FAC	full to partial	5.5-7	mod	400,000	80	a durable early plant
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	hairy beardtongue	4-9	high	summer	Pale violet	2-3	FACU	full-shade	6.0-7.5	none	2,000,000	210	
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia mountain mint	4-8	high	july-sept	white	1-3	FAC	full to partial	5.0-7.5	slow	3,840,000	480	very fragrant
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	gray-headed coneflower	3-7	medium	aug-sept	yellow	3-5	FAC	full to partial	5.6-6.8	none	625,000	40	
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan	5-9	low	june-sept	yellow/orange	2-3	FACU	full to partial	6-7	none	1,500,000	24	food and cover for birds
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	wild senna	4-9	medium	july-aug	yellow	4-6	FAC	full to partial	6.5-7.5	n/a	22,680	36	short flowering legumes
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	bluestem goldenrod	3-9	high	aug-oct	yellow	1-4	FACU	full to partial	5.5-7	slow	4,640,000	320	wood edges
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	early goldenrod	4-8	high	aug-sept	yellow	2-5	UPL	full to partial	5.0-7.0	n/a	700,000	200	first goldenrod of the season to bloom
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	gray goldenrod	4-8	very high	aug-oct	yellow	1-3	UPL	full	6.5-7.5	rapid	1,008,000	220	survives in low fertility soil, provides nectar for butterflies
<i>Solidago patula</i>	rough goldenrod	3-8	high	fall	yellow	4-5	OBL	full-partial	4.5-7	rapid	700000	280	
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	showy goldenrod	5-9	high	aug-sept	yellow	2-5	UPL	full to partial	5.1-7.5	n/a	1,600,000	160	very attractive to butterflies, bees, ants, beetles
<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	smooth blue aster	4-6	high	aug-oct	blue/purple	2-5	FACU	full	5.8-7.8	mod	880,000	180	fiborous root system
<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i>	calico aster	3-6	high	fall	white/changng	2-5	FACW-	full-shade	6.1-6.5	some	4,000,000	40	found in forested areas, horizontal branches
<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	new england aster	4-8	very high	aug-oct	purple	2-6	FACW	full to partial	5.6-7.5	n/a	700,000	200	provides food and cover for wildlife and butterflies
<i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i>	NY aster	4-8	high	late summer - fall	purple	3-5	FACW	full	5.5-7	mod	700000	220	prone to mildew
<i>Symphyotrichum pilosum</i>	hairy white oldfield aster	4-10	high	aug-oct	white	2-4	UPL	full	5.4-7	rapid	1,056,000	200	adapatable, can be weedy and invasive

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<i>Symphotrichum prenanthoides</i>	zigzag (crooked stem) aster	4-8	high	aug-sept	pink/purple	2-4	FAC	partial to shade	5.5-7.2	mod	700,000	180	provides nectar for butterflies
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort	4-9	high	june-sept	purple	1-3	FAC	full to partial	6.6-7.5	n/a	128,000	148	self seeds, can become invasive
<i>Tradescantia subaspera</i>	zigzag spiderwort	5-9	high	july-sept	purple	2-3	FACW	partial	5.6-7.8	n/a	130,000	64	bloom period fairly long. Pollinated by bees, sytphid flies
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	alsike clover	2-10	high	late spring	pink-white	1-3	FAC	full	5.6-7.5	none	680,400	2	introduced
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	blue vervain	3-8	medium	june-aug	purple	2-5	FACW+	full to partial	5.6-7.5	n/a	1,544,000	48	easily seeded
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	hoary vervain	3-9	high	late summer/fall	purple	4-6	FACU	full	5.6-7.5	slow	480,000	48	does not compete with vigorous grasses
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	white vervain	4-9	medium	june-july	white	3-5	FACU	full to partial	6.6-7.5	n/a	1,000,000	64	
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	wingstem	4-6	medium-low	july-sept	yellow	3-5	FAC	full to partial	n/a	n/a	239,000	56	threatened in NYS
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	NY ironweed	5-9	high	late summer	purple	4-6	FACW+	full to partial	5.1-7.5	none	300,000	160	deer and rabbit resistance
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	culver's root	4-8	high	june-sept	white	2-5	FAC	full to partial	6.6-7.8	n/a	12,400,000	300	attracts butterflies and bees
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden alexanders	3-8	low	june-july**	yellow	1-2	FAC	full to partial	6.1-7.8	n/a	176,000	136	one of the earliest blooming natives

n/a= no info to date

** did not flower after 2 growing seasons

Most information from NRCS PLANTS database; www.wildflower.org; Michigan State University; xerces society; pollinator.org, and field work and direct observations from the Big Flats Plant Materials Center

~Note that all native perennial wildflowers benefit from a period of cold stratification to improve germination and vigor.